

Palm Sunday 2018

The Mystery of the Kingdom of God Continues

The *Mystery* of the Kingdom of God (Relationship with God, Eternal Life) is that the Kingdom of God has arrived in Jesus Christ and a person does not have to receive it. Rather than a conquering king or army, the Kingdom is compared to a sower sowing seed in a field. The Kingdom of God is also compared to a king inviting people to come to a wedding feast for his son.

Then we learned that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed or a little bit of leaven. The kingdom comes in an unexpected way, small, seemingly insignificant, a way that could be overlooked, yet its power is such that it will grow to effect everything!

Now on what we call Palm Sunday, we get a glimpse of this mystery being lived out in a powerful declaration that the Kingdom has indeed arrived in a most unlikely way, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth entering Jerusalem as King and Messiah.

Luke 9:51-53

Now when the time was almost come for Jesus to be received up [to heaven], He steadfastly and determinedly set His face to go to Jerusalem. - Amplified

Luke 19:28-46

- I. **This was an intentional act!**
 - a. This did not happen accidentally
 - b. Jesus Knew He was fulfilling prophecy
 - c. Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt."
 - d. A clear and unmistakable declaration... "I am the one you have been waiting for! I am the Messiah! I am your King!"

- II. **The people understood**

"Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

- III. **Jesus understood**

Jesus replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

IV. The people also misunderstood

But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to cry. "I wish that even today you would find the way of peace. But now it is too late, and peace is *hidden* from you... because you did not recognize it when God visited you.

V. The Kingdom of God revealed

Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the merchants from their stalls. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

VI. What does all this mean?

- a. The Kingdom has indeed arrived!
- b. The Kingdom is about relationship with God and that which separates us from Him.
- c. The Kingdom must be received

VII. Acts 2:38 - "Each of you must **turn from your sins and turn to God (repent)**...

and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (**personally welcome Christ into your life**)...

Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (**the Kingdom of God**).